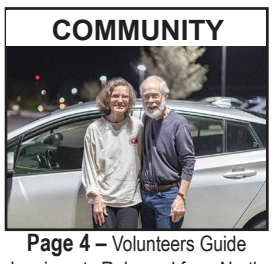
COMMUNITY



Page 4 – Volunteers Guide Immigrants Released from North Lake Processing Center Home

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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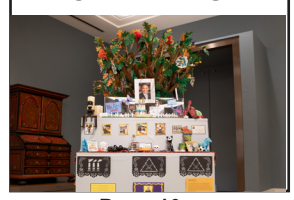
OFRENDAS



Page 10 – DIA Announces Call for Submissions for 14th Annual Ofrendas

¡El Desfile y la Fiesta del Cinco de Mayo llegan este fin de semana al Southwest Detroit!

Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit (MPC) presentará el Desfile y la Fiesta Anual del Cinco de Mayo en el Southwest Detroit los días 2 y 3 de mayo de 2026. El fin de semana incluye una Fiesta de dos días y el icónico desfile el domingo, atrayendo a familias, vecinos y visitantes de toda la región a una de las tradiciones culturales más antiguas de Detroit.

El tema de este año, "Estamos Unidos", refleja el compromiso de reunir a la gente para celebrar la fuerza, el orgullo y la diversidad que definen a la comunidad del Southwest Detroit.

La Fiesta de Cinco de Mayo se llevará a cabo en Patton Recreation Center, ubicado en 2301 Woodmere St., de 12 p.m. a 8 p.m. tanto el sábado como el domingo. Este evento familiar contará con un programa completo de entretenimiento, incluyendo ballet folclórico mexicano, bandas en vivo, presentaciones de mariachi, un DJ y un tributo a Selena, resaltando los sonidos tradicionales y contemporáneos de la cultura latina. El horario completo de las presentaciones y la lista de los vendedores participantes se pueden encontrar en www.detroitcincodemayoparade.com.

El domingo 3 de mayo, el Desfile Anual de Cinco de Mayo comenzará a las 12 p.m., llueva o truene, recorriendo una ruta de 2.4 millas sobre W. Vernor Hwy. desde Patton Park hasta Clark Park.

El desfile conmemora la Batalla de Puebla, librada el 5 de mayo de 1862 bajo la presidencia de Benito Juárez, simbolizando la resiliencia y el orgullo nacional. Los espectadores podrán disfrutar de una vibrante procesión de carros alegóricos, grupos de danza, bandas escolares, charros y artistas culturales que representan la diversidad de la herencia latina en el Southwest Detroit.

Puntos Destacados del Desfile

- **Concurso de Decoración del Desfile:** Los carros alegóricos, vehículos y contingentes a pie competirán por un Gran Premio que reconocerá la mejor representación del tema de este año. Los ganadores recibirán un trofeo y una inscripción gratuita para el desfile del próximo año.
- **Participación Gratuita para Bandas Escolares:** MPC ha eliminado las cuotas de inscripción para fomentar la participación de los jóvenes y mostrar el talento local.
- **Celebración de la Herencia Latina:** El desfile destaca la diversidad de las culturas y tradiciones latinas representadas en todo el Southwest Detroit.

Continúa en la pág.8

Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta This Weekend in Southwest Detroit!

The Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit (MPC) will host the Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta in Southwest Detroit on May 2 and 3, 2026. The weekend includes a two-day Fiesta and the iconic parade on Sunday, drawing families, neighbors and visitors from across the region to one of Detroit's longest-running cultural traditions.

This year's theme, "Estamos Unidos" (We Are United), reflects a commitment to bringing people together in celebration of the strength, pride, and diversity that define the Southwest Detroit community.

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will be held at Patton Recreation Center, 2301 Woodmere St., from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. The family-friendly event will feature a full schedule of entertainment, including Mexican folkloric dancing, live bands, mariachi performances, a DJ, and a Selena tribute, showcasing traditional and contemporary sounds of Latino culture. A full performance schedule and list of participating vendors can be found at www.detroitcincodemayoparade.com.

On Sunday, May 3, the annual Cinco de Mayo Parade will begin at 12 p.m., rain or shine, along a 2.4-mile route on W. Vernor Hwy. from Patton Park to Clark Park.

Jesse Gonzales Sr. has been named the 2026 Cinco de Mayo Parade Grand Marshal

The parade commemorates the Battle of Puebla, fought on May 5, 1862, under Mexican President Benito Juárez, symbolizing resilience and national pride. Spectators can expect a vibrant procession of floats, dance groups, school marching bands, charros and cultural performers representing the diversity of Latino heritage in Southwest Detroit.

Parade Highlights

Parade Decoration Contest: Floats, vehicles, and walkers will compete for a Grand Prize recognizing the best representation of this year's theme. Winners will receive a trophy and complimentary entry in next year's parade.

Free Participation for School Bands: MPC is waiving fees to encourage youth involvement and showcase local talent.

Celebration of Latino Heritage: The parade highlights the diversity of Latino cultures and traditions represented across Southwest Detroit.

Jesse Gonzales Sr. has been named the 2026 Cinco de Mayo Parade Grand Marshal. A longtime Southwest Detroit resident and community advocate, he has dedicated himself to uplifting others and strengthening the bonds that make the community vibrant and resilient.

cont. on pg.8

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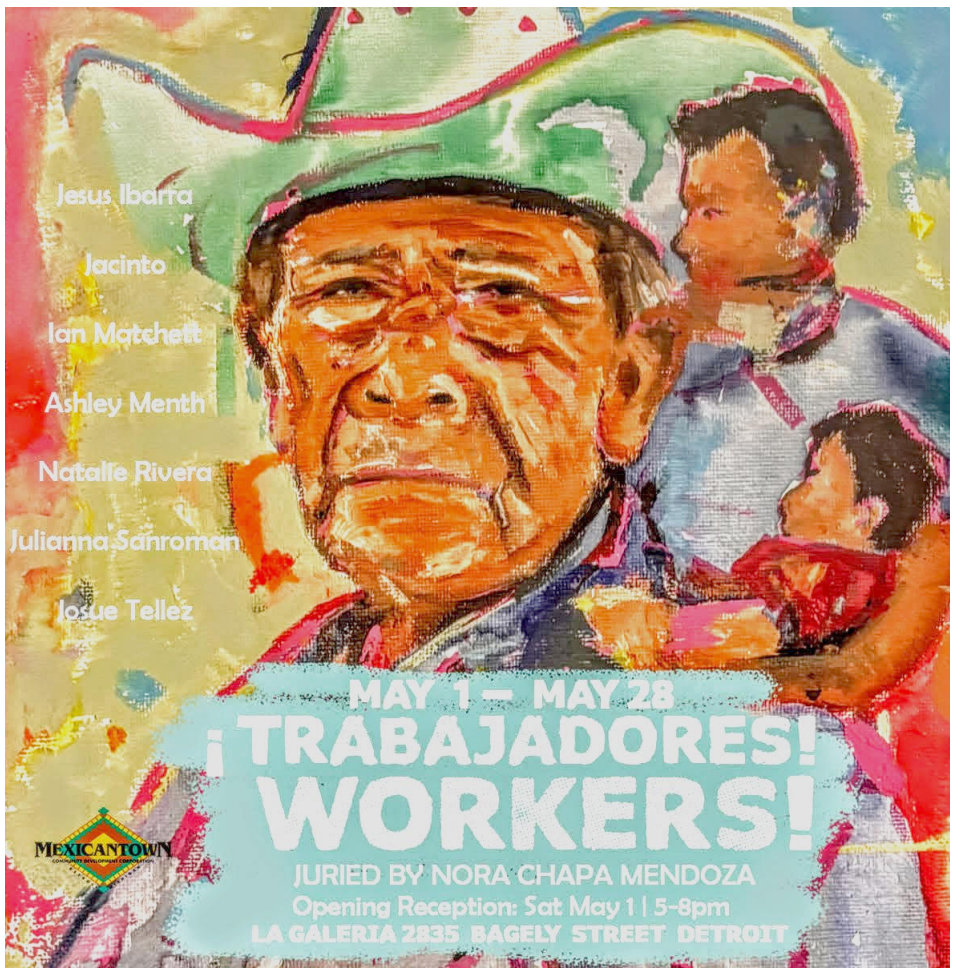
Cinco De Mayo 2026



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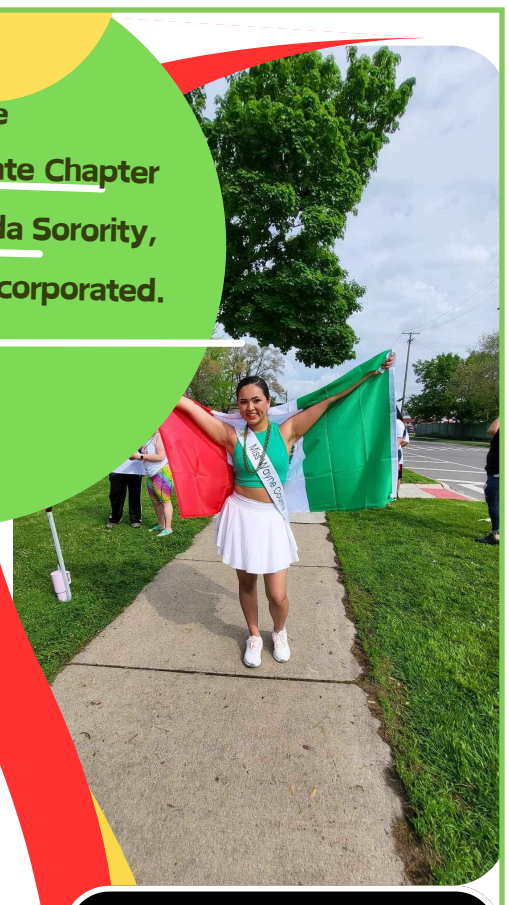

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Where Mexico Meets Japan: W. Vernor Hwy Welcomes Sushi Los Toritos

By Juanita Zuniga | Photos by Luciana Vega

Have you ever imagined what sushi might look like if you combined it with the spice and flavors of Mexico?

Then you're in luck, the Vargas Family has expanded their business and created a home for sushi lovers right here in Southwest Detroit. It's called Sushi Los Toritos.

And it's the first of its kind. Sushi was introduced to the neighborhood in mid-2021, when The Goblin sushi bar opened on Bagley.

But the Vargas family is taking a unique and creative spin on sushi and making it accessible to the people right in Mexicantown.

Co-owner Jimena prepares a sushi roll in the busy kitchen.

Jimena Vargas and her family originally began selling these huge and elaborately named sushi rolls--like the Karol G and the Gera Mx roll--out of her house. That's where the traction began.

"It was only on Sundays. 'cause I had a Monday through Friday job and then on Sundays we were selling almost like a hundred rolls," said Jimena Vargas.

But after months of tremendous positive feedback from customers they committed and opened the doors at a place of their own.

The business is a family affair. Jimena, her brother Rogelio, and his wife Stephanie all take on the roles of being the owner and leading the establishment, all with their own respective roles.

But the family business doesn't stop there; cousins, and sisters, plus the matriarch of the family--Bella Orozco--also work and engage in the fun of the business by operating inside.

The Vargas family, with roots in Jalisco, were not new to the world of being business owners and the food industry. In fact, Rogelio learned how to make sushi from working at a local sushi spot in Mexico and taught the craft to his sister. From there, the rest is history.

The name, 'Torito' which translates to 'little bull' comes from a nickname tradition in their hometown of Jalisco, where community members are more known and recognized through their nickname than real name. Their late father, Efrain Rogelio Vargas Orozco, was known in the small town as El Toro and thus came the name in honor of his role in their family.

Though before it was Los Toritos, it was a print shop. Meaning, no kitchen or really any restaurant equipment to begin with. But they were up for the challenge.

"As soon as we paid the deposit, there was no stepping back… we started from scratch. It was all white in here," said Stephanie Vargas

From there, it was all hands on deck. The making of Sushi El Torito and its fruition wouldn't have been possible if weren't for the immense demand for this cross-cultural type of sushi and the support of friends and family--especially the mothers Bella Orozco and Marzela Orozco who supported the trio every step of the way in opening the restaurant.

Inside El Torito you will be welcomed with neon light signs, vibrant reds, and Japanese inspired art amongst walls all done by local artists.

The interior of Sushi Los Toritos, featuring a mural painted by Detroit tattoo artist Luis Martinez.

From the 'Juan Gabriel' or 'Karol G' roll, you will be captivated by the craftsmanship of each individual roll. Each roll, named after significant and well known figures in the Latino community are made fresh, a la orden.

Just like the names of their rolls, Los Toritos is unique in its own way. It's the first of its kind to land a storefront here in Southwest Detroit. Something that the Vargas family believes was needed here in the city.

"It's not authentic traditional sushi—it's something way different. We try to combine both flavors in one." Said Stephanie.

Each roll comes with the same base: shrimp, cream cheese, carrots, avocado, and cucumber. However, it is the outside that makes it so unique. From house melted cheese, to hot cheetos, cream cheese-bacon, and even platanos plus a multitude of homemade sauces including spicy mayo; you're in for more than a treat with whichever roll you choose to get.

The rolls themselves are almost twice the size of a traditional Japanese style sushi; Packed with so much flavor in every bite, you only want to try more. You're in for an experience like no other.

Los Toritos celebrated their grand opening Sunday, April 19 and their customers and community followed them from house to storefront.

"We cried… It was so many months of stress. Even the day before, we were like, 'What if nobody shows up? What if it's empty?'… it was good to see," said Stephanie

Co-owners Jimena and Stephanie stand proudly, wearing matching T-shirts with the restaurant's logo

The restaurant was packed from wall to wall and received so much love and support on their first day. According to Jimena, Los Toritos was non-stop from 11am to 8pm, the establishment even had to close early because they sold out on their first day.

Since their opening Los Toritos has been busy from morning to evening, you can grab a roll Tuesday-Sunday 11am-9pm at 8340 W. Vernor Hwy. near Springwells.

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time. Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising.

Luciana Vega is a photojournalist with a background in healthcare and a deep love for the culture and community of Southwest Detroit. Passionate about its vibrant music scene, she aims to capture and share the stories of its people through photography.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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When Immigrants Are Released from North Lake Processing Center, They Rely on Volunteers to Guide Them Home

Photos and story by Erick Diaz Veliz

The day Jairo returned home to hug his wife and children, a fierce thunderstorm loomed in the west. The storm alert had been issued for every county in the state. Yet, it never caught up with him on his night journey from Baldwin to Detroit, where he lives. Strong winds and some drops on the windshield greeted a deeply emotional Jairo, who spent most of the trip on a video call with his family, faces that would soon cease to be mere voices coming from a cell phone.

"Where is he? Get la pelona (the bald one) ready, get la loca (the crazy one) ready..." can be heard from his phone, from which so many voices spill out, sounding just like a party. "That's my mom, my cousin, my sister, my niece, another cousin, my first cousin all the way from Colombia; and this one (his wife) ... she's right here," says Jairo. His voice is choked with emotion and anxiety; he couldn't speak. From the phone, they urge him to turn on his camera; they want to see him.

"We are almost there," said Bill Hickey, behind the wheel. Sitting beside him, his wife, Billie Hickey, with Google Maps in hand, turns to look at Jairo. Both smiled. He is just minutes away from home

Bill and Billie, a Detroit couple in their late 70s, picked him up in Okemos, in a parking lot near Lansing. Another driver, who identified herself as Mary, drove Jairo from Grand Rapids, and another had picked him up from Baldwin to Grand Rapids before that. They didn't know each other. Mary met with Bill and Billie for the first time while Jairo was getting into the couple's car.

They chatted a few words and wished Mary a safe trip as she was driving back into the storm. For Bill and Billie, Jairo was the fourth person released from North Lake, whom they drove home. They began in February, joining a network of volunteer drivers known as The Overground Railroad, which helps immigrants return to their homes after they are released from detention at North Lake, the biggest ICE processing center in the Midwest, located in Baldwin, Michigan.

Bill and Billie Hickey are volunteer drivers and members of The Overground Railroad, a group that provides transportation to immigrants released from the ICE North Lake Processing Center.

"For us," said Bill. "It's one small way to give a healing touch to those who are caught up in a horrible system that detains and corrals immigrants and sometimes US citizens in awful facilities without due process to pressure them to give up their rights and self-deport."

"We let them know that they are not 'the worst of the worst,'" he continued. "They are human beings and our neighbors. They are our brothers and sisters, and they deserve to be treated as such."

North Lake, operated by GEO Group, a private prison company that manages multiple immigration detention and processing centers across the country, is located in a rural area on the northwestern side of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Getting there takes around three and a half hours from Detroit, 2.5 hours from Lansing, and 1 hour and 20 minutes from Grand Rapids.

When their loved ones are being released, families are notified on the very day, often just a few hours before. They do not always have the means to get there. In most cases, the family's primary breadwinners are the ones detained in Baldwin, while the remaining family members cannot afford private transportation or do not know how to drive; this situation, compounded by Michigan's lack of an efficient public transportation system, turns the journey to Baldwin into a nightmare for those without the necessary resources.

Drivers from the Overground Railroad organize and connect daily through text groups to see how many immigrants are being released, who is picking them up, where, and with whom they will connect to reach places inside the state or border states. They began with fewer than 10 drivers after last year's summer; now they have more than 100 volunteers organized with activist groups, churches, and individual volunteers.

"When these for-profit facilities are forced to release someone, they do so whether there is anyone able to pick them up or not, and whether they have adequate clothing or not," mentioned Bill. "The Overground Railroad makes sure that those who are released will get clothes, food, and will get home safely to family and friends."

How Jairo ended up in ICE custody is not much different from the stories of many immigrants in the region. He arrived in the U.S in 2024 with his family from La Guajira, Colombia, fleeing threats posed by the expansion of organized crime. At the Mexican border, they entered the country as asylum seekers. A work permit, Social Security number, ID, and driver's license would come later. As he said, he always wanted to do things the right way.

While driving his taxi in Southwest Detroit, Jairo was boxed in by several SUVs with tinted windows. Jairo suspected what was happening immediately; the flashing lights and the agents, their faces masked and wearing bulletproof vests, confirmed it: They were ICE. Handcuffed and shackled at the ankles, he was sent to North Lake for about a month until he was released.

"We have been deeply touched by hearing those we drive home say how much they love our country, even after they have been so badly treated by it," Billie said. "And, we have been reduced to tears by watching families and friends surround their returning family member with cries of joy and endless loving hugs."

"As happens so often in life, we have gotten back much more than we have given," both Bill and Billie agreed.

Jairo reunites with his family after being detained at North Lake.

For Janet Ray, one of the Overground Railroad organizers, amid all the negative situations that the immigrants' crackdown is evoking in communities, having people willing to help those families affected is the other side of the coin: The positive side.

"People are stepping up," she said. "It's kind of nice to see the best of society bubbling up. People are actually responding to help each other."

In the living room of her home in Southwest Detroit lies an urn containing the ashes of Felipe, a Honduran man who passed away nearly five years ago, and whom Ray never met. Felipe awaits his return to his family in the Central American country, a promise that Jessica, his sister, made to their mother. But Jessica had to self-deport after being detained at North Lake for several months. Following her promise, she asked Ray to send the ashes and some of her belongings that she had left in the U.S.

Ray carried a box in the trunk of his car containing the twenty years of Jessica's life in the United States to be delivered to Honduras. It isn't something the volunteer network typically does, but the situation called for it. "Who's a Detroit-based driver that can pick up Jessica's stuff? And so, I said, I could pick up Jessica's stuff," Ray recounts, explaining how she connected with Jessica.

"Immigration didn't let her carry the ashes back to Honduras, so now our volunteer network has to start figuring out how to do that," Ray said. "I never thought I would have a complete stranger's ashes in my living room, but now he is no longer a stranger. He's a friend."

For more information about how you can support the Overground Railroad, email info@strangersnolonger.org.

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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Hundreds Protest in Romulus Against Proposal to Convert Warehouse into ICE Detention Center

Photos and story by Erick Díaz Veliz for Michigan Advance – Reprinted with permission

Several hundred protesters gathered and marched in Romulus on Saturday in opposition to a 500-bed ICE detention center being planned for what is currently an industrial warehouse.

Homeland Security's plans in the city. Additionally, U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit) on Thursday introduced the Ban Warehouse Detention Act that would stop federal immigration officials from converting warehouses into detention centers.

Carrying a loudspeaker, a microphone and a camera, 22-year-old Jacob Gingrich disrupted the march as it was underway. Gingrich, a pro-ICE social media influencer, repeatedly attempted to slow down the march, while the organizers' marshals tried to stop him, resulting in some pushing and yelling.

Gingrich, who repeatedly spoke against illegal immigration and said current immigration policies are good for America, insisted he was not a MAGA supporter.

"I don't support what Trump did. I don't agree with the reasoning for going to war with Iran," Gingrich said.

Once protesters arrived outside the warehouse, Gingrich, alongside David Shaheen, a 39-year-old Detroit resident, managed to interrupt Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, a Democrat from Detroit who is running for secretary of state.

The incident escalated into shoving as several protesters surrounded the counter-protesters to prevent escalation and physical altercations.

Protestors march in opposition of plans to convert an industrial warehouse into an ICE detention center in Romulus. April 25, 2026

"I want people to know that what's happening is wrong," Jarwin Garza, 53, of Ferndale, said. "We have due process in this country under our Constitution, and it's not being followed by the current presidential administration."

The protesters gathered at Romulus Middle School and then marched to the 261,450-square-foot warehouse at 7525 Cogswell Street. Many were carrying signs against ICE and President Donald Trump's efforts to deport as many immigrants as possible.

The proposal for a new ICE facility just six miles from Detroit Metropolitan Airport has generated opposition from authorities, including Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and the city of Romulus, which have sued to stop the Department of

After the marchers returned to Romulus Middle School, a second rally was held outside the warehouse, where U.S. Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-Detroit) and state Reps. Dylan Wegela (D-Garden City) and Donavan McKinney (D-Detroit) were among those who addressed the rally.

Emily Duchenne, 68, a resident of Oakland County and member of Community Aid for Empowerment, raised her concerns about a significant increase in detentions carried out by ICE in the Pontiac area and Michigan since August.

"It is very un-American to warehouse people. That is not who we are as a country," she said. "I never thought I would live in a country with secret police that go around with masks."

The day's events were preceded by a hunger strike by immigrants detained at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan. According to activists at the rally, the strike is still ongoing, and they say hundreds of immigrants are participating, demanding better conditions within the facility.

"We're hearing that guards are highlighting the names of people refusing meals and threatening them with transfer if they continue," Ale Rojas with No Detention Centers in Michigan said.

JR Martin, also with the group, said the hunger strike at the North Lake facility is ongoing as of Saturday.

"We want to show up and amplify their demands for adequate medical care, adequate food, and real review of their cases," Martin said. "Ultimately, we want to shut North Lake down and ensure this facility never reopens."

Erick Díaz Veliz is a photographer from Lansing, Michigan, and a journalism student at Lansing Community College. He has documented cultural expressions in Andean communities and covered social events and issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelance photographer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and began living in Lansing seven years ago.

Holli Porter of Ann Arbor holds a protest sign at a rally to oppose plans to convert an industrial warehouse into an ICE detention center in Romulus. April 25, 2026

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Democracy at a Crossroads: Decoding the High-stakes Future of Latin American Elections

Written by Tevah Platt, Institute for Social Research for Michigan News

Expert Analysis

With political violence on the rise and fracturing stable nations, the future of democracy in Latin America is reaching a critical point, says a University of Michigan researcher.

Edgar Franco-Vivanco

Edgar Franco-Vivanco, assistant professor of political science at the University of Michigan, believes it is a shift that requires more than just a casual observation, which led to the founding of the Latin American Elections Hub, or LATAM-EH, which aims to enhance dialogue between the U.S. audience—particularly in Michigan and the Midwest—and Latin America.

The hub organizes expert panels to probe the national and global relevance of the region's most significant elections, providing data-driven analysis to journalists, policymakers and students.

"The idea is to bring together experts from different disciplines to discuss elections that have really high stakes," said Franco-Vivanco, who is also an affiliate of the Center for Political Studies at the U-M Institute for Social Research.

Colombia at the crossroads

Most recently, a LATAM-EH panel analyzed the upcoming 2026 Colombian presidential contest.

Three scholars—Juan Delgado, Leydy Diossa-Jiménez and Camilo Nieto-Matiz—painted a multidimensional picture of a country facing a fractured ideological landscape and the persistent shadow of political violence.

According to Delgado, U-M assistant professor of sociology, Colombian politics has revolved around armed conflict for decades. However, following the 2016 peace agreement with FARC guerrillas, voter priorities have shifted toward health care, education and corruption, he said.

Juan Delgado

"This is the first time in many years in Colombia where we have unified support for a left-wing candidate and a split vote on the right," Delgado said.

While left-wing candidate Iván Cepeda currently leads polling for the May 31 election, the right remains split between populist Abelardo De La Espriella—whom Delgado likened to a "Colombian Trump"—and establishment conservative Paloma Valencia.

The diaspora 'canary in the coal mine'

The Colombian diaspora plays a uniquely important role in the nation's elections, says Diossa-Jiménez, a postdoctoral fellow at U-M's Center for Emerging Democracies. She says new data shows that the diaspora vote—which includes over 1.2 million registered voters—consistently runs about 15 percentage points to the right of the national result.

"Unless Cepeda clears 50% plus one in the first voting round on May 31, the diaspora pattern predicts the right will consolidate and he will not win the runoff," Diossa-Jiménez said.

Leydy Diossa-Jiménez

Security and violence

The stakes are further complicated by a resurgence of political violence, says Nieto-Matiz, assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He says that more than 200 victims of political violence have been recorded since the campaign began in March 2025.

Nieto-Matiz contends that today's armed groups are decentralized, targeting local officials who control municipal budgets. The regions experiencing the worst violence tend to support the left, though voters often attribute the instability to historical state abandonment rather than current policy.

Global Implications

The outcome of the May 31 vote will serve as a bellwether for the broader trajectory of left-wing governance and right-wing populism across Latin America, the researchers say. Beyond research, LATAM-EH aims to bridge the gap between the classroom and the field as students engage directly with these regional experts. The hub plans to organize trips for students to serve as official electoral observers.

The hub's work continues this fall with a panel on the 2026 Brazilian elections scheduled for October.

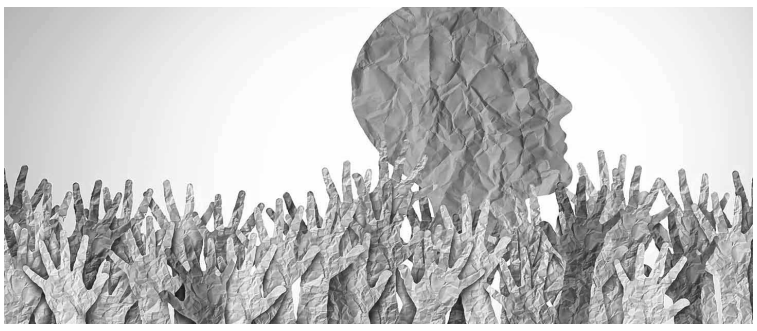
La democracia en una encrucijada: Descifrando el futuro de las elecciones en América Latina

Escrito por Tevah Platt, del Institute for Social Research; adaptado al español por Juan Ochoa, de Michigan News.

Asesoría de Expertos

Con el aumento de la violencia política y la fractura de naciones estables, el futuro de la democracia en América Latina está alcanzando un punto crítico.

Edgar Franco-Vivanco, profesor asistente de ciencia política en la Universidad de Michigan, considera que este cambio requiere algo más que una observación casual. Esta convicción llevó a la fundación del Latin American Elections Hub (Centro de Elecciones Latinoamericanas, LATAM-EH).



El centro organiza paneles de expertos para indagar en la relevancia nacional y global de las elecciones más significativas de la región, proporcionando análisis basados en datos a periodistas, políticos y estudiantes.

"La idea es reunir a expertos de diferentes disciplinas para debatir sobre elecciones que tienen apuestas muy altas", afirmó Franco-Vivanco, quien también es afiliado del Centro de Estudios Políticos del Instituto de Investigación Social de la Universidad de Michigan.

Colombia en la encrucijada

Recientemente, el LATAM-EH convocó un panel para analizar la próxima contienda presidencial de Colombia en 2026. Tres académicos, Juan Delgado, Leydy Diossa-Jiménez y Camilo Nieto-Matiz, presentaron un panorama multidimensional de un país que enfrenta un paisaje ideológico fracturado y la persistente sombra de la violencia política.

Juan Delgado, profesor asistente de sociología en la U-M, señaló que durante décadas la política colombiana giró en torno al conflicto armado. Sin embargo, tras el acuerdo de paz de 2016 con las guerrillas de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, las prioridades de los votantes se han desplazado hacia la salud, la educación y la corrupción.

"Esta es la primera vez en muchos años en Colombia donde tenemos un apoyo unificado para un candidato de izquierda y un voto dividido en la derecha", dijo Delgado.

Mientras que el candidato de izquierda Iván Cepeda lidera actualmente las encuestas para las elecciones del 31 de mayo, la derecha permanece dividida entre el populista Abelardo De La Espriella, a quien Delgado comparó con un "Trump colombiano", y la conservadora de tradición Paloma Valencia.

La diáspora: El "canario en la mina"

La diáspora colombiana desempeña un papel de una importancia única en las elecciones de la nación. Leydy Diossa-Jiménez, becaria postdoctoral en el Centro para Democracias Emergentes de la U-M, presentó nuevos datos que muestran que el voto de la diáspora, que incluye a más de 1.2 millones de votantes registrados, se inclina sistemáticamente unos 15 puntos porcentuales más a la derecha que el resultado nacional.

"A menos que Cepeda logre el 50 por ciento más uno en la primera vuelta electoral el 31 de mayo, el patrón de la diáspora predice que la derecha se consolidará y él no ganará la segunda vuelta", sostuvo Diossa-Jiménez.

Seguridad y violencia

El panorama se complica aún más por el resurgimiento de la violencia política. Camilo Nieto-Matiz, profesor asistente en la Universidad de Texas en San Antonio, señaló que se han registrado más de 200 víctimas de violencia política desde que comenzó la campaña en marzo de 2025.

Nieto-Matiz argumentó que los grupos armados actuales están descentralizados y tienen como objetivo a los funcionarios locales que controlan los presupuestos municipales. Las regiones que experimentan la peor violencia tienden a apoyar a la izquierda, aunque los votantes suelen atribuir la inestabilidad al abandono histórico del Estado más que a las políticas actuales.

Implicaciones globales

El resultado de la votación del 31 de mayo servirá como un indicador de la trayectoria más amplia de los gobiernos de izquierda y el populismo de derecha en toda América Latina.

Más allá de la investigación, el LATAM-EH busca cerrar la brecha entre el aula y el campo de trabajo, permitiendo que los estudiantes interactúen directamente con estos expertos regionales. El centro planea organizar viajes para que los estudiantes se desempeñen como observadores electorales oficiales.

El trabajo del centro continuará este otoño con un panel sobre las elecciones brasileñas de 2026, programado para octubre.

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ENGLISH ESPAÑOL

The Ingredients of Independence:

Detroit Food Entrepreneurs Trade 'Thorns' for 'Roses' at La Terraza

By Amber Ogden

Detroit's small-business scene is tough, with high risks and big rewards. The city's food scene is attracting more attention and creativity, but the numbers remain challenging even for the best chefs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 20% of new businesses close in their first year, and nearly half are gone by year five. In the food and beverage industry, where profits are slim and the work is intense, those odds can feel even tougher.

That didn't stop La Terraza from being filled last week with more than just the smell of fresh salsa and carnitas. The room was lively with the shared ambition of Detroit's food leaders. TechTown Detroit held its first of four alumni events for the food and beverage industry, bringing people together to move from classroom lessons to the real, sometimes exhausting world of running a local business.

Marcus Reliford, TechTown's Director of Business Support and Engagement, looked out at a group of chefs, roasters, farmers, and distillers. He set the tone with the alumni by emphasizing self-reliance and building connections within the group.

"We really wanted to put more emphasis on the people who are alumni," Reliford said.

"We didn't want you guys to feel like we have not invested in you or reinvested. Today this is really about continuing to build a sense of community."

The main event was an open, hands-on activity called "Rose, Bud, and Thorn." Everyone was asked to sum up their work life in three ways and post them on a board: their Rose (a recent win or strength), their Bud (an exciting project or opportunity), and their Thorn (their biggest challenge).

The results showed that Detroit's food leaders have a lot in common, even though their businesses range from bottled teas to coffee shops. Many were proud to have reached operational stability, finally building teams that can run without the owner always being there. But the challenges, or "Thorns," were shared by everyone.

Entrepreneurs talked about the "Start-up Fog," a phrase for the confusion around city rules, zoning, and health codes. For small business owners, missing a building code can mean opening late or falling into debt while waiting for approval. Beyond paperwork, the biggest struggle was burnout. After the pandemic, labor shortages and the hard work of running a kitchen are now the main threats to staying open.

For many at the event, it was a needed reminder that in food, relationships matter more than venture capital. Marlin Hughes, owner of the Detroit Pepper Company and a longtime part of the local food scene, talked about the importance of keeping real human connections as the world becomes more digital and automated. Hughes, who left a 25-year corporate job to start his own business, shared what's now a rose for him that was once a thorn.

"My reality showed people their potential reality," Hughes said, reflecting on the friction he faced when he left the traditional workforce. "How dare I walk away from a job that had financial security but no self-worth? I call it buying my freedom."

His words struck a chord with the crowd who work every day in the people-focused world of hospitality. Hughes said that when an owner is truly present for their community, not just in person but also in spirit, that energy goes into the food. He believes that relying too much on delivery apps and automation takes away the heart of the business.

"When you're dealing with food, it's all about relationships," he added.

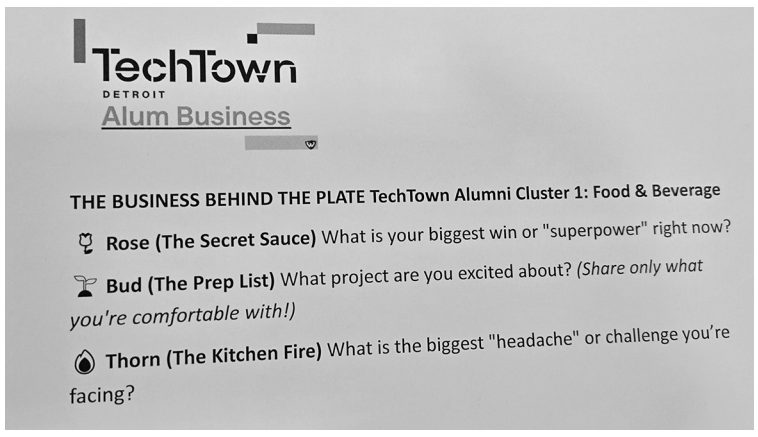
Still, "buying freedom" doesn't mean ignoring the future. The range of "Buds" at La Terraza showed that Detroit's food scene is ready for big changes. Business owners were interested in "capital stacking," or using different types of funding, and bringing AI into their daily work.

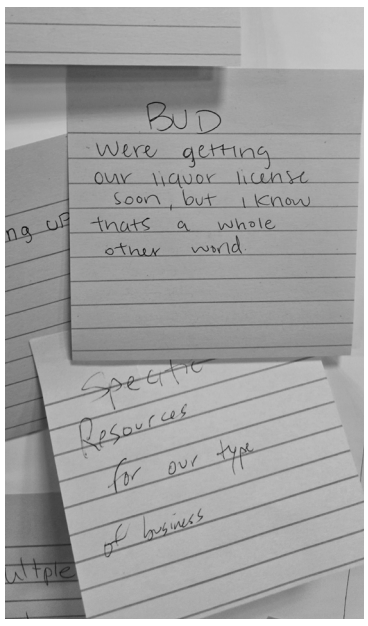
Ruben Gordon from the Better Detroit Brownie Company showed how growing a business can help the whole neighborhood. He bakes his brownies with high school students, middle schoolers, and autistic teens, proving that a business can support youth and help the community heal.

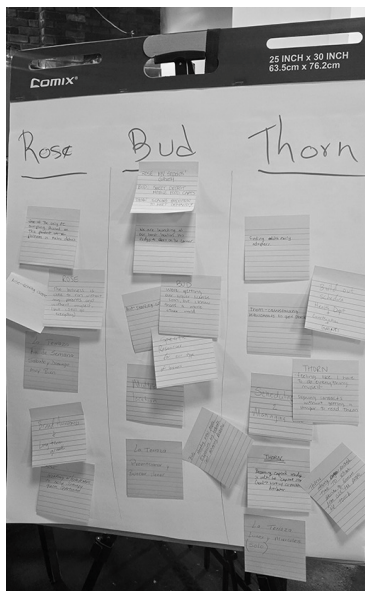
"We are making a greater Detroit that all your children deserve," Gordon said, showing how these businesses are tied to the city's future.

As the night ended, TechTown's organizers made a promise to the group. The "Thorns" on the board, problems with health codes, managing staff, and burnout, would be used to shape future training and resources. TechTown is scheduled to offer free professional headshots to alumni later this year.

By sharing their challenges, these business owners are making way for growth together. In a city known for hard work and teamwork, they show that the key to success isn't just what's in the pantry, but the people working beside you.


TechTown
DETROIT
Alum Business
THE BUSINESS BEHIND THE PLATE TechTown Alumni Cluster 1: Food & Beverage
Rose (The Secret Sauce) What is your biggest win or "superpower" right now?
Bud (The Prep List) What project are you excited about? (Share only what you're comfortable with!)
Thorn (The Kitchen Fire) What is the biggest "headache" or challenge you're facing?


BUD
Were getting our liquor license soon, but I know thats a whole other world.
Specific Resources for our type of business



Upcoming Sessions:

June 8 / 8 de junio: Retail & E-commerce

August 10 / 10 de agosto: Supply Chain (Back-to-School Readiness)

Nov 9 / 9 de nov: B2B & Service Professionals

For information on how to register, visit: https://events.techtowndetroit.org/events

Amber Ogden is a Detroit-based freelance journalist and EL CENTRAL reporter, covering the vital intersections of arts, culture, and community in Southwest Detroit. As a Detroit native, she has had her work appear in The Michigan Chronicle, Visit Detroit, Outlier Media, and Eater Detroit. When she isn't documenting the happenings of Detroit, she can be found exploring the city's culinary scene or visiting a local art gallery. Follow her work at amberogden.com.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Cinco de Mayo Parade and Fiesta

Con't from pg. 1

His leadership reflects the spirit of "Estamos Unidos" that defines this year's celebration.

"We look forward to welcoming residents and visitors from across the region to join us for this year's celebration," said Alma Cruz, president of the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit. "This event is made possible by the dedication of our volunteers and the continued support of the community, and we are grateful to everyone who helps bring it together each year."

Participants can register for the parade at 7752 W. Vernor Ave. between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, visit detroitcinco-demayoparade.com or follow @mexicanpatrioticcommitteeofdetroit on Facebook for updates.

The Cinco de Mayo Parade in Detroit is proudly presented by E&L Supermercado, with major support from the W. Vernor and Springwells Business Improvement District, Michigan Central, IBEW Local 58, and Raíces Detroit.

Desfile y la Fiesta del Cinco de Mayo

Con't de pg. 1

Jesse Gonzales Sr. ha sido nombrado el Gran Mariscal del Desfile de Cinco de Mayo 2026. Residente del Southwest Detroit desde hace mucho tiempo y defensor de la comunidad, se ha dedicado a apoyar a los demás y a fortalecer los lazos que hacen que la comunidad sea vibrante y resiliente. Su liderazgo refleja el espíritu de "Estamos Unidos" que define la celebración de este año.

"Estamos entusiasmados de dar la bienvenida a los residentes y visitantes de toda la región para que se unan a nuestra celebración este año", comentó Alma Cruz, presidenta de Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit. "Este evento es posible gracias a la dedicación de nuestros voluntarios y al apoyo continuo de la comunidad, y estamos agradecidos con todos los que ayudan a organizarlo cada año".

Los participantes pueden registrarse para el desfile en 7752 W. Vernor Ave. de 12 p.m. a 4 p.m. los lunes, miércoles, viernes y sábados. Para más información, visite detroitcincodemayoparade.com o siga a @mexicanpatriotic-committeeofdetroit en Facebook para recibir actualizaciones.

El Desfile de Cinco de Mayo en Detroit es presentado con orgullo por E&L Supermercado, con el apoyo principal de W. Vernor and Springwells Business Improvement District, Michigan Central, IBEW Local 58 y Raíces Detroit.

Bruno Mars x Hello Kitty Exclusive Merch Pop-Ups Rolling Out at Every Stop on "The Romantic Tour" Including Detroit!

Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10, from 10am until 6pm
At Harmonie Hall, 311 E Grand River Ave, Detroit, MI 48226

16-time GRAMMY®-winning global superstar Bruno Mars is currently on his record-breaking, sold-out stadium outing, The Romantic Tour. In conjunction with the tour, Bruno Mars x Hello Kitty pop-ups will take place in all cities on the tour worldwide. Key upcoming cities, added due to fan demand, include Atlanta, Charlotte, Washington, DC, Nashville, Detroit, Minneapolis, Chicago, Columbus, and North York, Toronto. The operating hours of the pop ups have been extended due to popular demand, and shops will now open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in each city.

Each pop-up will offer exclusive, limited-edition merchandise available only at these locations and not sold at the stadiums, along with dedicated photo opportunities for fans. Additional details can be found on @theromanticworldtour or at brunomars.com/theromanticworldtour.

In Detroit, MI, the Bruno Mars x Hello Kitty pop-up is located at Harmonie Hall at 311 East Grand River in Detroit, MI, from Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10. Hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Romantic Tour plays Ford Field on Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10.

Bruno Mars x Hello Kitty Upcoming Pop Up Locations:

The Romantic Tour now spans nearly 80 dates across North America, Europe, and the UK, cementing its place as one of the biggest global tours of the year. Notably, the tour delivered the largest single-day ticket sales in Live Nation history across North America, Europe and the UK, and set a Ticketmaster record with 2.1 million tickets sold in a single day. Originally announced with less than 40 dates, an additional 34 shows were added in response to incredible fan demand. The tour includes an extraordinary six-night run at Wembley Stadium in London, five nights at Rogers Stadium in Toronto, BC Place in Vancouver, and SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, four nights at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford and GNP Seguros in Mexico City, and multi-night plays across other markets.

The tour follows the arrival of Bruno Mars' long-awaited fourth solo album, The Romantic, which was the biggest debut album of his career. The project officially debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, marking his first album ever to premiere at the top spot, and second No. 1 album on the chart after Unorthodox Jukebox in more than a decade. The album also hit No. 1 on Apple's Global Album Chart, No. 1 on Spotify's Global Album Chart, and No. 1 on Spotify's Top US Album Chart. It features songs including the explosive "I Just Might," which is Bruno's 10th No. 1 single and inaugural No. 1 debut, as well as "Risk It All," which landed at No. 1 on the Billboard Global 200 Chart and Billboard Streaming Songs List, and hit the No.1 spot on both Apple and Spotify's Global and US song charts.

Cinco De Mayo 2026

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Detroit Institute of Arts Announces Call for Submissions for 14th Annual Ofrendas: Celebrating Día de Muertos Exhibition

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), in partnership with the Consulate of Mexico in Detroit, the Southwest Detroit Business Association, and the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation (CDC), is pleased to announce a call for submissions for the 14th Annual Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos. This annual exhibition, designed to familiarize visitors with the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead and the importance of ofrenda altars, invites artists and community members to highlight the ways in which people remember and pay tribute to their departed loved ones.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to submit a concept for an original ofrenda altar that reflects the spirit of Día de Muertos. This could be through personal remembrance, cultural heritage, or themes of life, loss, and legacy. Proposals are welcome from artists of all backgrounds and experience levels, as well as individuals, families, and groups.

"Ofrendas: Celebrating el Dia de Muertos is a special exhibition at the DIA offering visitors the opportunity to experience the storytelling and artistic expression that comes along with the rich tradition of the Day of the Dead each fall," said Julie McFarland, Executive Director of Public Affairs & Community Engagement. "We look forward to receiving submissions from returning artists and first-time participants alike, and to celebrating another year of cultural connection and shared traditions at the museum."

Submission Details

Artists and community members can enter their proposals via the submission form by June 5, 2026. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of local community members and DIA staff. Selected Ofrenda artists will be notified by July. The application includes detailed guidelines and is available in both English and Spanish.

Key Dates:

- June 5: Submission deadline
- July: Ofrenda selections are made and artists are notified
- Week of September 14: Installation of ofrendas at the DIA
- September 26: Exhibition opens
- November 1: Exhibition closing

Each selected artist or group will receive a $500 stipend to support their participation.

To learn more about the exhibition and how to submit, visit www.dia.org/ofrendas14.

General admission is always free for museum members and for residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Proposals accepted through June 5

Museum Hours and Admission

Tuesday–Thursday: 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

About the Detroit Institute of Arts

The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), considered one of the premier art museums in the United States, houses more than 65,000 works of art that offer a multicultural survey of human creativity from ancient times to the 21st century. With a collection that features everything from the first Van Gogh painting to ever enter a U.S. museum (Self-Portrait, 1887) to Diego Rivera's famous Detroit Industry murals (1932–33), the DIA is renowned for its quality, range, and depth.

The DIA has a clear mission: to provide every visitor with an opportunity to find personal meaning in art, individually and with each other. Whether you're an art expert or simply someone who appreciates beauty, the DIA wants you to connect with their collection in a meaningful way. You can learn more about this exceptional museum and its amazing collection by visiting their website at www.DIA.org. And if you want to keep up with their latest news and events, follow them on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram.

Where the Air Remembers and the Trees Dream

Cinco De Mayo 2026

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ACLU and MIRC Call on Congress to Require an Independent Investigation into ICE's North Lake Detention Center Following Reports of a Hunger Strike and Dangerously Inadequate Medical Conditions

The ACLU of Michigan (ACLU) and the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) call on Congress to require an independent investigation into the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) North Lake Processing Facility, where people locked up launched a hunger strike on Monday, April 27. The hunger strike is reportedly in protest of poor conditions, including a lack of medical care, as well as prolonged detention. The ACLU and MIRC have also been in contact with numerous people detained at North Lake who described similar inhumane conditions.

In the 10 months since North Lake opened as an ICE detention center, people held there have reported to the ACLU and MIRC that they have been denied both urgent and routine medical care. This includes life-threatening delays and denials of care, lack of follow-up care after hospitalization, and denial of prescription drugs or requiring payment in order to receive necessary medications. Some have described witnessing people in severe medical distress or collapsing and having to beg staff, sometimes for hours, to provide medical care. Last December, 56-year-old Nenko Stanev Gantchev died while in detention at North Lake, which some reports say is due to ICE's failure to properly treat his diabetes. People have also reported receiving spoiled or insufficient amounts of food.

"This is all driven by the Trump administration's cruel and xenophobic mass deportation agenda of rounding up and warehousing longtime members of our communities, forcing them to either endure indefinite detention under inhumane conditions or, out of desperation, to make the devastating choice to leave their families and communities behind, " said Loren Khogali, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan. "We opposed the reopening of North Lake precisely because we feared that what is now happening would happen. North Lake's conditions and practices fall dangerously short of both constitutional mandates and federal standards, and we are calling for an immediate independent investigation."

North Lake is owned and operated by GEO Group, a private prison company that has been repeatedly sued based on reports of neglect and abuse of the people it detains. When GEO previously operated North Lake as a prison,, there were six reported hunger strikes by incarcerated individuals over conditions including inadequate medical care and insufficient food.

ACLU and MIRC call on Congress to enforce their oversight and appropriations authorities by:

- Requiring healthcare experts to conduct an independent medical audit of North Lake—and other similarly dangerous detention centers around the country—as a condition for any appropriated funds to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The audit must include confidential interviews with people detained and access to medical records.
- Conducting an oversight visit to the North Lake detention center as soon as possible and speaking with detained individuals, especially those who are participating in the hunger strikes to ensure retaliatory actions such as force-feeding, segregation, and transfers to another facility do not take place. Past Congressional visits have been critical in shedding light on facility conditions.
- Sending a formal inquiry to ICE about the conditions at North Lake and demanding a response which should include a plan of action to improve conditions in a reasonable amount of time.

The hunger strikers at North Lake are not just protesting inhumane conditions, but also the fact that people—many of whom have lived here for decades and have U.S. citizen families—are being held for months without any consideration of their individual circumstances. The vast majority of people arrested by ICE in Michigan do not have criminal records. Additionally, federal judges in Michigan and across the country are finding that the people in immigration detention are routinely being held unlawfully without bond. If they do finally get a hearing, immigration judges are denying them bond at unprecedented rates. The result is the continued detention of people who would otherwise be at home with loved ones in their communities. While the reason for the sudden high rate of bond denials is unknown, immigration judges whom the administration views as insufficiently harsh on immigrants are being fired at alarming rates.

"This sudden, unexplained spike in bond denial rates raises questions about whether noncitizens are getting fair hearings," said Miriam Aukerman, the ACLU's Director of Strategic Litigation. "It is also extremely alarming that immigration judges are being fired apparently for failing to conform to the Trump administration's inhumane mass deportation agenda. We fear that these judges, who are under the control of the executive branch, may now be forced to choose between upholding their duty to review the evidence and follow the law or face termination."

MIRC Director Susan Reed said, "Immigration detention in Michigan has increased sevenfold in the past year. People have been arrested at hearings when the only legal purpose of detention is to ensure people appear at hearings. Detained people seeking legal assistance share their stories with us every day, and we are gravely concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the people held by the government. We urge immediate action to improve conditions and release the many who are detained needlessly."

La ACLU y MIRC hacen un llamado al Congreso a exigir una investigación independiente sobre el Centro de Detención North Lake del ICE, tras informes de una huelga de hambre y condiciones médicas peligrosamente inadecuadas

La ACLU de Michigan (ACLU) y el Centro de Derechos de Inmigrantes de Michigan (MIRC) hacen un llamado al Congreso a exigir una investigación independiente sobre el Centro de Procesamiento North Lake del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de los EE.UU. (ICE), donde las personas allí recluidas iniciaron una huelga de hambre el lunes pasado. Según se informa, la huelga de hambre es una protesta contra las condiciones deficientes, incluyendo la falta de atención médica, así como contra la detención prolongada. La ACLU y MIRC también han estado en contacto con numerosas personas detenidas en North Lake, quienes describieron condiciones inhumanas similares. En los 10 meses transcurridos desde que North Lake abrió sus puertas como centro de detención del ICE, las personas allí recluidas han informado a la ACLU y al MIRC que se les ha negado atención médica, tanto urgente como rutinaria. Esto incluye retrasos y negaciones de atención que ponen en peligro la vida, falta de seguimiento médico tras una hospitalización, y la negativa a suministrar medicamentos recetados o la exigencia de un pago para poder recibir los fármacos necesarios. Algunos han descrito haber presenciado a personas en estado de grave angustia médica o que se desplomaban, teniendo que suplicar al personal —a veces durante horas— que les brindara atención médica. El pasado diciembre, Nenko Stanev Gantchev, de 56 años, falleció mientras se encontraba detenido en North Lake; según algunos informes, su muerte se debió a la incapacidad del ICE para tratar adecuadamente su diabetes. Asimismo, las personas han reportado haber recibido alimentos en mal estado o en cantidades insuficientes.

La historia continúa en www.elcentralmedia.com

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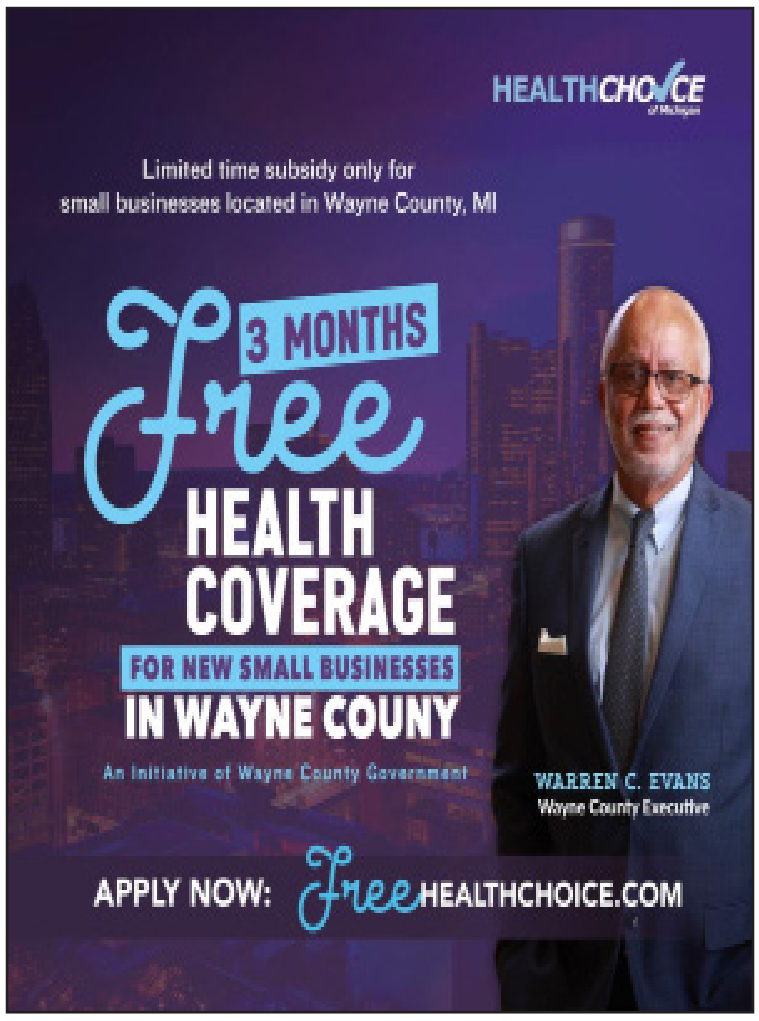

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Correction:

Our story about The Grand Porter in our April 9, 2026 edition should have identified Reimer Priester as the owner and operator of the business and Louisa and Devon Caldwell as the property owners of the building where Grand Porter operates.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

Political violence will never be the way

By José López Zamorano/ RED HISPANA

Regrettably, Washington once again witnessed a scene we believed was confined to the history books: gunfire, chaos, and a president—along with members of his staff—being evacuated in haste.

The incident, which took place at the capital's Hilton Hotel during the traditional White House Correspondents' Dinner, left behind something more than just a scare.

It served as a stark reminder that political violence continues to lurk, even within the most consolidated democracies.

A 31-year-old gunman attempted to storm the event where President Donald Trump was present, opening fire near the main ballroom before being neutralized by the Secret Service.

At least one agent was injured—though protected by his bulletproof vest—while the President emerged unharmed. The scene—people taking cover, security protocols being activated, pervasive uncertainty—is not merely an isolated episode; it is a symptom.

For the most unsettling aspect is not solely the attack itself, but rather the context that makes it possible.

We live in an era of polarization, where a political adversary ceases to be merely someone with whom one disagrees, becoming instead someone perceived as an enemy. That leap—psychological and emotional—constitutes the fertile ground in which violence takes root.

Yet, at least in the immediate aftermath of the incident, a sense of unity in the face of adversity—and of collective solidarity—was evident.

"In light of tonight's events, I ask all Americans to make a heartfelt commitment to resolving our differences peacefully. We must do so; we must resolve our differences," President Trump stated following the incident.

American history is already all too familiar with political violence. That very same Hilton Hotel was the scene of the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan in 1981.

More than four decades later, the echo is disquieting: the names may change, but the logic of violence as a shortcut persists. And yet, it is no shortcut at all.

The path of violence resolves nothing; it merely deepens societal fractures, fuels fear, and weakens the very institutions that—precisely—enable differences to be expressed without the shedding of blood.

The response to events of this nature cannot be limited to merely tightening security or reviewing protocols—necessary as those steps may be.

It also demands something more difficult: moderating our tone and reclaiming the idea that those who hold different views are not an existential threat, but rather part of the same democratic compact. This is not a matter of naivety; it is a matter of civic survival.

Ultimately, democracy is measured not by the absence of conflict, but by the way in which we manage it.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

Opinión invitada:

La violencia política nunca será el camino

Por José López Zamorano/ RED HISPANA

Lamentablemente Washington volvió a vivir una escena que creíamos reservada a los libros de historia: disparos, caos y un presidente y miembros de su gente evacuados a toda prisa.

El incidente ocurrido en el hotel Hilton de la capital, durante la tradicional cena de corresponsales de prensa de la Casa Blanca, dejó algo más que un susto.

Nos recordó que la violencia política sigue acechando incluso a las democracias más consolidadas.

Un hombre armado de 31 años intentó irrumpir en el evento donde se encontraba el presidente Donald Trump, abriendo fuego cerca del salón principal antes de ser neutralizado por el Servicio Secreto.

Hubo al menos un agente herido, aunque protegido por su chaleco antibalas, y el mandatario resultó ileso. La escena —gente refugiándose, protocolos activados, incertidumbre— no es solo un episodio aislado: es un síntoma.

Porque lo más inquietante no es únicamente el ataque en sí, sino el contexto que lo hace posible.

Vivimos en una era de polarización, donde el adversario político deja de ser alguien con quien se discrepa para convertirse en alguien a quien se percibe como enemigo. Ese salto —psicológico, emocional— es el terreno fértil donde germina la violencia.

Pero al menos en el momento del incidente se registró un sentido de unidad frente a la adversidad, y solidaridad colectiva.

"A la luz de los acontecimientos de esta noche, pido a todos los estadounidenses que se comprometan de corazón a resolver nuestras diferencias pacíficamente. Tenemos que hacerlo, tenemos que resolver nuestras diferencias", dijo el presidente Trump tras el suceso.

La historia estadounidense ya conoce demasiado bien la violencia política. El mismo hotel Hilton fue escenario del intento de asesinato contra Ronald Reagan en 1981.

Más de cuatro décadas después, el eco es incómodo: cambian los nombres, pero persiste la lógica de la violencia como atajo. Y no lo es.

El camino de la violencia no resuelve nada: sólo profundiza las fracturas, alimenta el miedo y debilita las instituciones que, precisamente, permiten que las diferencias se expresen sin sangre de por medio.

La respuesta a este tipo de hechos no puede ser solo reforzar la seguridad o revisar protocolos, aunque eso sea necesario.

También exige algo más difícil: moderar el tono, recuperar la idea de que quienes piensan distinto no son una amenaza existencial, sino parte del mismo contrato democrático. No se trata de ingenuidad. Se trata de supervivencia cívica.

En última instancia, la democracia no se mide por la ausencia de conflicto, sino por la manera en que lo gestionamos.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o del director

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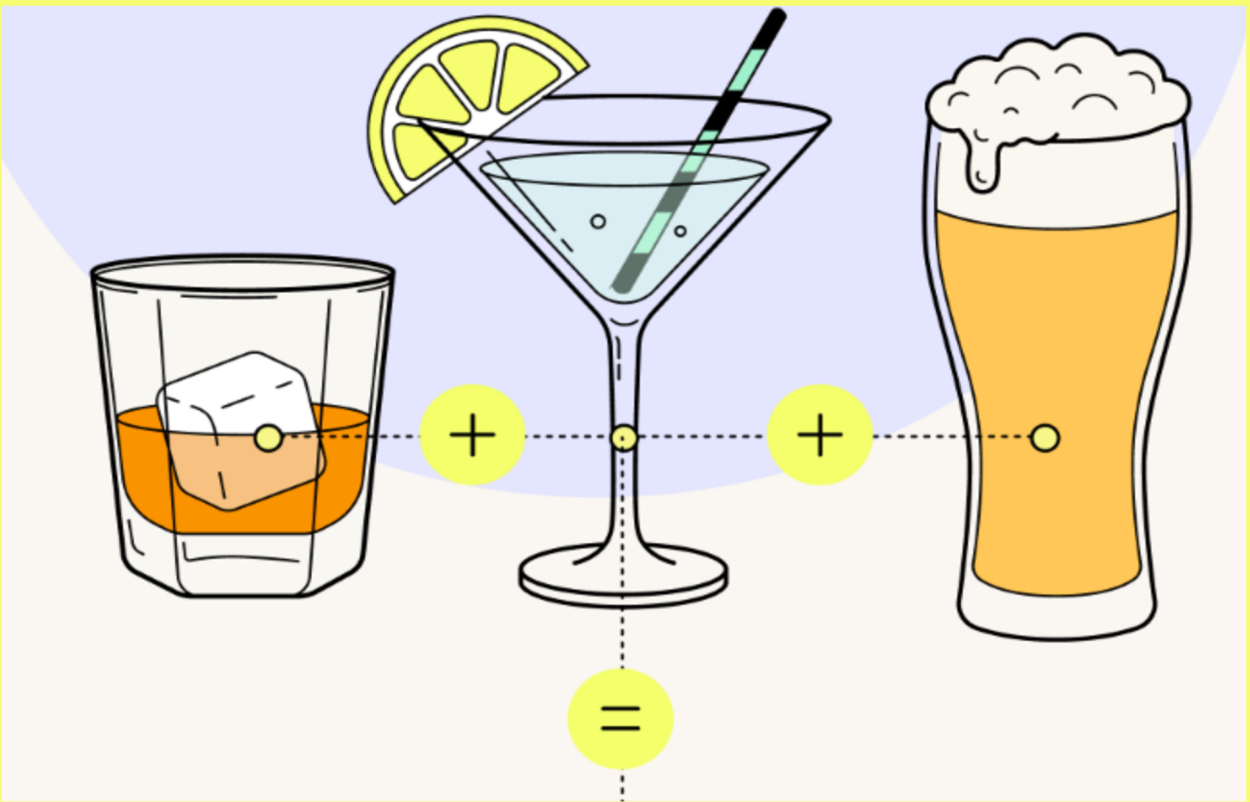

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Lions Pick Blake Miller #1, In Draft

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Story by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAl, and photos courtesy of the Detroit Lions

Lions picked seven players in 2026 NFL Draft. Number one 17th pick was Blake Miller, (offensive tackle from Clemson), number two 44th pick, was Derrick Moore (edge rusher from Michigan) and in the fourth round 118th pick, Jimmy Rolder (LB from Michigan) Overall they filled in many places of need, in this draft.

Photos of Blake Miller meeting with the Lions

Lions head coach welcomes Lions #1 draft pick Blake Miller

(L-R) Lions GM Brad Holmes, #1 pick Blake Miller, and Lions head coach Dan Campbell

Night of the Knockouts XL

Story by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL, and photos by Bob Ryder (fightnews.com and EL CENTRAL)

Last Friday night, a pro boxing show, with twelve bouts, was held at the Sound Board auditorium within the Motor City Casino. The promotion was presented by Carlos LIinas of Clip Promotions, Carlos Llinas has promoted more combat shows currently, than any other promotor in the state of Michigan. One of the show's highlights was Kronk star Hunter Lee, with new trainer Jimmy Mello. Photos below are highlights from Night of the Knockouts XL

Cameron Pankey (L, from Pontiac, MI, 14-1, 5 KOs) defeated Ernesto Sebastian Franzolini (R, from Buenos Aires, Argentina) by TKO 3rd round (2:20) in the main event

Kronk fighter Hunter Lee (R, from Ontario, Canada, 5-0, 2 KOs) defeated Achilles Shinas (L, from Ontario, Canada) by majority decision

William Canales (L, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, 5-0, 4 KOs) defeated Michael Teolis (R) by TKO end of 3rd round

(photo on right) Hall of Fame Boxing Trainer Jackie Kallen (center) celebrates her 80th birthday with CLIP Promoter Carlos Llinas (right)

World Cup Dreams Could Be Fading For Some Stars

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

The World Cup starts on June 11. National team managers around the world will be biting their finger nails, consulting doctors, and hoping that they will have their best players available when the games kick-off. A select few coaches have the depth to cover the loss of a regular player or two. But, nobody wants to see a generational start go down just weeks prior to what could be a career-defining moment.

Didier Deschamps has won a World Cup as a player and as a coach. He also lost the 2022 final in penalties with France. He is the most experienced, winning manager in the World Cup. Imagine his stress level going up watching Kylian Mbappe limp out of a Real Madrid game six weeks ahead of France's run at a third consecutive World Cup final appearance. If Mbappe's muscle problem doesn't make him lose sleep, reserve striker Hugo Ekitike has already been ruled out after suffering an Achilles injury at Liverpool.

The European season, condensed due to the World Cup, has taken a toll on players' fitness. France has a deep pool of talent to call upon and can keep a Ballon D'Or winner on the bench. It's not the same for a country like Egypt. Liverpool forward Mohammed Salah made a painful exit at Anfield over the weekend in what could be his last home game for the English power. The current king of Egyptian football appeared to tweak his hamstring. There isn't another player like him for Hossam Hassan to select. If he cannot recover in time for Egypt's first game against Belgium on June 15, the Pharoahs could be in serious trouble.

It's not only veterans like Salah who have been bitten by the injury bug. Barcelona's wonderkid Lamine Yamal pulled a hamstring taking a penalty kick. He won't play for the Blaugrana again this Spring. Spain will hope that he recovers in time for Spain's first game against Cape Verde, although he could held back until the final group match against Uruguay on June 26 given the talent level of Spain. That will be the European Champions toughest game of the group phase.

Brazil boss Carlo Ancelotti has a global supply of skilled players from which to choose a roster for the five-time winners. However, Real Madrid defender Eder Militao will be a big loss. So, will his Real Madrid colleague Rodrygo. With Neymar struggling to find his form at Santos and apparently not in Ancelotti's plans, more pressure will fall on Arsenal's defender Gabriel and Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior to lead the Selecao to a sixth World Cup. There are also doubts about Raphinha and Estevao due to their lengthy absences. They aren't favored to win, so losing key players will make things more difficult.

Germany remains a threat in any World Cup, but Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry has already been ruled out of the World Cup. Arsenal's Kai Havertz will be nervously waiting for a final decision on his fitness. He looks to be absent for Arsenal's stressful finale to a season that has seen them throw away a huge lead in the English Premier League, but still make the UEFA Champions League semifinal.

Two other Arsenal players will also have to prove their fitness to England boss Thomas Tuchel. Eberechi Eze and Bukayo Saka were expected to be major attacking threats for England, but they have succumbed to the wear and tear of English football. England could also be without Chelsea defender Reece James, who has struggled with injury for much of the season.

USA manager Mauricio Pochettino will be watching for PSV Eindhoven defender Sergino Dest to return from a hamstring injury. The expected starting right back for the USA went down in March and has declared he will return before PSV's season ends. That date is approaching fast. Left back Antonee Robinson hasn't been able to win his starting job back at Fulham since returning from his knee troubles, so it's not impossible there is still a lingering issue. The rest of the pool is currently injury free, but Pochettino won't announce his final squad until May 26. He is bound to be as nervous as the fans, hoping that his top team arrives at the new national training center in Atlanta ready to go.

While it would be a blow if any of the game's biggest stars have to miss the world's biggest event, injuries will open up opportunities for unknown players to take a star turn. Should Mbappe miss out for France, it could be Ballon D'Or winner Ousmane Dembele who carries Les Blues to glory. Brazil's injuries have opened up roster spot for the likes of Brentford striker Igor Thiago, who has 21 goals in the Premier League. Perhaps Manchester City's reserve striker Omar Marmoush will step out of Mo Salah's shadow and lead Egypt to their deepest run ever. There are any number of players who only need a chance to show that they too can be a World Cup hero.

DETROIT CITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

While most of the USL Championship teams played the first match day of the Prinx Tires USL Cup, Detroit City FC had a weekend off. The Prinx Tires USL Cup is an interleague tournament pitting teams from the Championship and USL League One in a World Cup style competition featuring a group stage before single elimination matches for the group winners. DCFC's first game in their group will be at League One Forward Madison on May 16.

Before Danny Dichio and DCFC can think about the trip to Wisconsin, Le Rouge has to face one of the USL Championship's major powers. Louisville City comes to Keyworth on Saturday for a nationally televised game (6:00 pm CBS Sports Network). The visitors find themselves in their usual spot atop the Eastern Conference. The faces have changed, but the Kentucky club have managed to come out as hot this year as last year. They have 16 points from 7 games, dropping points only in a loss to Charleston and a draw with Loudon.

For Louisville City, it hasn't been one or two players racking up big goal and assist numbers. Nobody has more than three goals or three assists. They haven't been exceptional defensively either with 9 goals conceded, they have found ways to win games consistently. That's the mark of a contender for the postseason.

DCFC did get some good news this week as Ben Morris returned to training after his long absence due to yet another ACL tear. New signings Rafa Mentzingen and Preston Tabort Etaka were also spotted in pictures published by the club on social media as they work their way back from injury. Dichio could use the extra options to generate more offense against the high-flying leaders. There hasn't been any sign of defender Michael Bryant yet, though. He would be a welcome presence in the back line.

Louisville has already opened up a six point gap on DCFC in the standings. The teams will meet twice more this season, a Prinx Tires USL Cup game at Keyworth and a return visit to Lynn Family Stadium for a league match later this summer. To be the best, a team has to beat the best. Getting results against Louisville City would give the team a big boost.

Torkelson On Home Run Streak

Story and photos by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

As of Tuesday (when EL CENTRAL goes to press), Spencer Torkelson has hit a homerun in five consecutive games. This ties the record, for the Detroit Tigers, with Hank Greenberg and Marcus Themes. He will have the opportunity to break the record on Tuesday night, when the Tigers play the Atlanta

Holding orange Gatorade bucket, Detroit Tigers' Riley Greene (L) and Colt Keith (R), surprise and give Gatorade bath to Spencer Torkelson to celebrate Torkelson's walk-off home run against the Milwaukee Brewers at Comerica Park on Thursday, April 23rd

Tigers celebrate Torkelson Walk off Homerun last Thursday

SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo: 5th of May

Although Cinco de Mayo is a date of historical importance for Mexico, it does not compare to the scale of celebrations held in the United States to commemorate it. But why is it so significant?

To answer this, we must begin by understanding what gave rise to this celebration: the idea of victory.

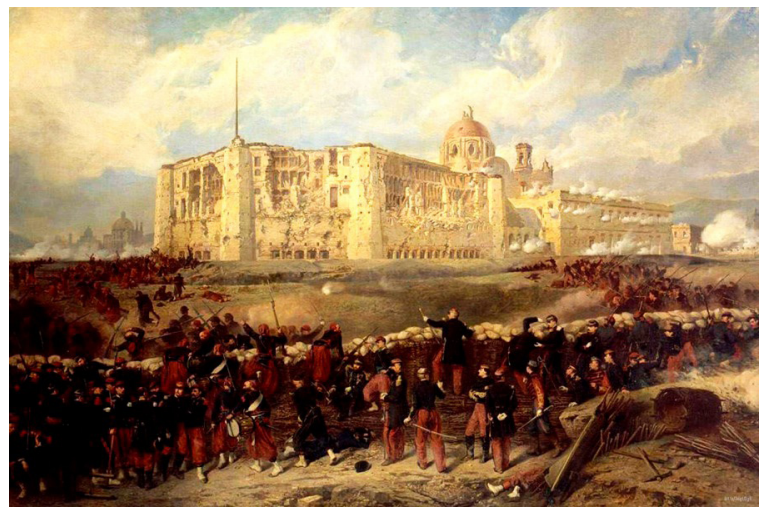
In 1821, after eleven years of war, Mexico achieved its independence from Spain. However, what followed was an unexpected destiny marked by foreign invasions. The first came from France in 1838; the second, from the United States in 1848, driven by the desire to annex northern territories such as Arizona, Nevada, and Texas. The third invasion, once again by France, is the one that ultimately shaped the symbolic meaning of Cinco de Mayo.

After the U.S. invasion, Mexico had lost 55% of its territory. The sense of defeat overshadowed the triumph of independence and weighed heavily on the national spirit. However, in 1862, this perception changed. Against all odds, Mexico defeated what was then considered a highly sophisticated European army, using limited military resources and mostly local weapons.

By 1862, after years of internal conflict between conservatives—who favored maintaining ties with European powers such as Spain or France—and liberals—who sought greater equality through a government that separated Church and State—the country was in bankruptcy. Mexico was unable to repay its debts to foreign creditors, namely Britain,

Spain, and France. At the end of January, President Benito Juárez requested a two-year extension to fulfill these obligations. The intention was clear: to pay, but with more time.

While the British and Spanish governments agreed to the extension, the French doubted Mexico's ability to comply. Under the leadership of Napoleon III, France decided to intervene, seeking to collect the debt through resources and, if possible, to reestablish a French-controlled government in Mexico. French troops advanced toward the capital.



The decisive victory took place on May 5, 1862, near Puebla, at the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe. Under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza, a force of about 2,000 soldiers, joined by approximately 2,700 local peasants armed with machetes, sticks, and rudimentary weapons, faced the well-equipped French army, which carried firearms such as rifles, pistols, bayonets, and cannons. Despite the imbalance, the Mexican forces managed to repel the invasion.

This is why Cinco de Mayo holds such importance as a symbol of Mexican victory. Regardless of their limited resources, the Mexican people organized themselves and defeated a powerful foreign army.

As early as 1864, Mexican communities in California began commemorating Cinco de Mayo through patriotic gatherings. The celebration came to represent something greater than independence—it became a tribute to Mexican courage, unity, and resilience in the face of adversity. This helps explain why the holiday is celebrated so enthusiastically in the United States. For Mexican migrants, the spirit of this victory resonates deeply. Just as those fighters overcame a heavily armed army with minimal resources, migrants confront the hardships of challenging circumstances through determination and hard work, carrying with them a sense of joy and strength of character.

Let us celebrate, then, another year of victories—both personal and collective—as migrants and as a people.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo

El Cinco de Mayo aunque es una fecha de importancia histórica para México, no tiene par en comparación a las celebraciones que se llevan a cabo en Estados Unidos para su conmemoración; pero, ¿Por qué es tan relevante?

Primero debemos partir de entender qué fue lo que creció la esta festividad: la noción de Victoria.

En 1821, tras once años de guerra, se firma la Independencia de México de España, posterior a ello vino un destino inesperado, las invasiones extranjeras: la primera por parte de Francia en 1838; la segunda por parte de Estados Unidos en 1848 con el afán de la anexión de territorios del norte: Arizona, Nevada, Texas. La tercera, de nuevo por parte de Francia, pero fue ésta la que llevó al símbolo.

Tras la invasión estadounidense, México había perdido el 55% de su territorio, la sensación de derrota para el espíritu nacional opacaba la victoria independentista; no obstante, en 1862 esto cambia, pues México venció a lo que en ese momento parecía un sofisticado ejército europeo con apenas algunos recursos militares, y armas locales.

En 1862, tras años de continuos choques entre los mexicanos conservadores que deseaban que México permaneciera bajo dominio de los europeos, ya fuese de España o Francia, y los mexicanos liberales quienes buscaban un país con mayor igualdad a través de un gobierno que separara la Iglesia del Estado, el país se encontraba en Bancarrota y le era imposible pagar a sus acreedores, en este caso los Británicos, los Españoles y los Franceses, así pues, el entonces presidente de la República: Benito Juárez a finales de enero les solicita una prórroga de dos años para concluir de pagar la deuda. La intención era clara: pagar, pero bajo un mayor plazo.

Los británicos y los españoles accedieron a la prórroga, pero los franceses dudaron del cumplimiento y bajo el mando de Napoleón III

se dirigieron a México con el fin de cobrarse con recursos lo equivalente a la deuda y, de ser posible, reinstituir un gobierno francés. Así, los franceses llegaron a México en dirección a la capital.

La Victoria se dio en el Cerro de Loreto en 1862 antes de entrar a Puebla, cuando bajo el mando del General Ignacio Zaragoza 200 soldados, más 2700 campesinos armados con machetes, chinacas y palos los mexicanos se unieron los mexicanos para defenderse contra la invasión de los franceses quienes llegaron con armas de fuego: carabinas con puntas de metal, pistolas, bayonetas y cañones.

De ahí la importancia del Cinco de Mayo como símbolo de la victoria mexicana, pues sin importar la precariedad de recursos, los mexicanos supieron organizarse para derrotar a los franceses.

Por ello, desde California en 1864, las juntas patrióticas mexicanas comenzaron a celebrar cada Cinco de Mayo algo más importante que una independencia, una fecha que reconoce la valentía mexicana, la unión y la capacidad para sobrellevar adversidades, de aquí que en Estados Unidos se festeje con tanto fulgor, pues para los mexicanos que han migrado resuena en ellos esta espíritu festivo, pues, así como aquellos derrotaron a un ejército de armas con tan solo machetes y palos, los migrantes derrotan los embates de crueles destinos con su arduo trabajo, trayendo consigo alegría y fortaleza de carácter.

Celebremos pues, un año más de victorias personales y como migrantes.

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